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ABSTRACT

This paper describes opportunities for education in the United States in the field of book and paper conservation and preservation. Included is information on programs of study; internships; and courses, workshops, and seminars. Also provided is a list of organizations (with addresses and telephone numbers) and publications concerned with the conservation and preservation of books and other paper materials. A nine-item bibliography is included. (Author/EW)

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OPPORTUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES FOR EDUCATION IN BOOK AND PAPER CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION

by

Jill R. J. Holden
January 1988

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Much of this nation's intellectual wealth is maintained in libraries and archives. The majority of these collections are comprised of books and other materials which are made, at least in part, of paper. Technical changes in the 19th century made possible the industrialization of the paper industry which increased productivity but at the same time substantially weakened the stability and durability of the paper used in books, newspapers, and any number of other printed materials. As a result, present day librarians and archivists find themselves confronted with collections of books with brittle, discolored pages and documents that are crumbling. To compound this problem, the stronger, more stable paper produced in the pre-industrialized era are themselves not immune to the effects of age, pollution, mishandling, and improper storage -- all of which contribute to the deterioration of paper and bookbindings. Without proper care, the condition of library and archive collections can -- and do -- continue to decline. Although in recent years this problem has received increased attention, a vast number of the books and papers in the United States are in need of immediate attention if these items, or even their intellectual content, are to be preserved for future generations.

In the library/archive setting, conservation refers to those activities which serve to maintain or restore items that contribute to intellectual or cultural integrity. Preservation consists of preventative measures which are taken to prolong

the strength of materials such as books and paper before they are in need of conservation. In 1985 the Yale University Library conducted a survey of 36,500+ volumes in its collection and found that some 37.1 percent of the books had brittle paper and 82.6 percent (approx. 30,150) of the books overall had acidic paper.1 Taking the Yale University survey to be a rough average of the condition of books and paper materials nationwide, it can be estimated that in the nation's 32,813 libraries millions of books and paper materials are in need of some form of conservation treatment.2 This quantity far exceeds the amount of materials to which conservation treatment can be administered. According to George M. and Dorothy G. Cunha, the number of people involved in the conservation and preservation of books and paper is far less than is needed, and "'To wait for the conservator in most libraries is like waiting for Godot' because there are just not enough conservators."3 A combination of more education for library and archive staffs that is geared toward the conservation and preservation of books and paper, combined with a greater number of conservation professionals, would surely aid in decreasing the severity of this situation.

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1 Walker, Gay, et. al., "The Yale Survey: A Large-Scale Study of Book Deterioration in the Yale University Library," College and Research Libraries 46 (March): 111.

2 Statistical Abstract of the United States 1986, 106th ed. (Washington: U.S. Department of the Census, 1985) 160.

3 George M. and Dorothy G. Cunha, Library and Archives Conservation: 1980s and Beyond, 2 vols. (Metuchen [N.J.]: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1983) 1:118.

An assortment of job titles exist in the field of conservation, and the qualifications for these positions vary. Career opportunities include managerial, educational, and technical positions. Preservation officer, conservation librarian, and head of conservation all describe administrative/managerial positions that are usually held by people who have graduate level training and/or experience in administering and directing conservation programs. The practitioners of conservation measures can be described as conservators, assistant conservators, or conservation technicians. The training required for conservators can include various methods such as interning with private conservators or in conservation laboratories; studying in college or university conservation programs; reading available literature in the field; and attending seminars and workshops dealing with conservation issues. Job descriptions for conservation positions typically include such requirements as managerial and organizational skills, a knowledge of the physical and chemical properties of books and paper, and experience in conservation. Sample job descriptions for the conservation field are listed in appendix 1 of The Preservation Challenge by Carolyn Clark Morrow. Additional sources for job descriptions can be found in the job advertisement sections of the American Institute of Conservation Newsletter, Conservation Administration News, The Abbey Newsletter, the Society of American Archivists Newsletter, and others.

Although there are some basic differences between book conservation and paper conservation, their similarity and interdependence are far greater, and both are essential for the preservation of library and archival materials. Book conservation usually requires the consideration of the binding, and paper conservation often involves printing inks or art media, but the principles of paper conservation are a common denominator. For that reason, information and training opportunities in book and paper conservation are both included within the various examples of conservation/preservation training that follow.

Now is the time to draw together information and ideas on the educational opportunities, the organizations, and the publications which provide training and information on book and paper conservation at all levels of expertise. This paper cites numerous educational opportunities in the conservation and preservation of books and paper materials but is not, however, intended as an all-encompassing directory to such information. Its purpose is to provide examples of the nature and the wide variety of possibilities that exist to those seeking conservation training. It should be noted that actual standards for evaluating conservation programs have yet to be formally established. This, in addition to the relative newness of the conservation field and the varying needs on the part of students of conservation, makes the evaluation of such training difficult and beyond the purpose of this paper.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY RELEVANT TO BOOK AND/OR PAPER CONSERVATION

A variety of opportunities exist for formal education in book and paper conservation. Among these are programs of study in the form of coursework and/or apprenticeships at colleges, universities, or other conservation facilities leading to degrees or certificates in conservation. Most conservation programs stress the importance of manual dexterity and an educational background including liberal arts and physical sciences. The following are examples of programs of study in book and/or paper conservation:

Columbia University's School of Library Service offers a two-part Library and Archives Conservation program which provides training for conservators and conservation administrators. This program for conservators of Library and Archival Materials is a joint program with the Conservation Center, Institute for Fine Arts, New York University and requires three years to complete. The program for Preservation Administrators at Columbia University is either a two-year degree program leading to a Master of Science in Library Service and an Advanced Certificate in Conservation or a one-year course of study leading to a Certificate if the student already holds a graduate library degree from an accredited library program.

The Art Conservation Program at the University of Delaware and the Winterthur Museum is a three-year course leading to a Master of Science in Art Conservation. Of the seven possible areas of concentration, the paper and the conservation science majors are the most relevant to the field of book and paper conservation. This program stresses prior conservation experience on the part of its applicants.

The Johns Hopkins University sponsors a five-year apprenticeship in the university's preservation bindery. This is a program which emphasizes book preservation for libraries and prepares students for careers in book and library preservation. It is certified by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Engineering.

The Master in Art Conservation program at the State University of New York at Buffalo includes training in paper conservation -- primarily works of art on paper. This three-year program includes a one-year, off-campus internship with a conservator or in the conservation division of an institution.

The North Bennet Street School in Boston, Massachusetts has a two-year training program in bookbinding that is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of the National

Association of Trade and Technical Schools (NATTS). "The NATTS Accrediting Commission is listed by the U.S. Office of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency under the provisions of Chapter 33, Title 38, U.S. Code, and subsequent legislation."4 While this program is not specifically oriented toward the restoration and conservation of books, the technical skills needed for book conservation are based on those needed for bookbinding.

The Graduate School of Library Service at the The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa offers an M.F.A. in Book Arts. In this program, a student can specialize in hand bookbinding. As with the North Bennet Street School, the University of Alabama's program does not emphasize book conservation in its curriculum, however, once again, the hands-on experience provided through bookbinding training would be relevant to later conservation studies.

COURSES, WORKSHOPS, AND SEMINARS AS SOURCES FOR EDUCATION IN THE CONSERVATION/PRESERVATION OF BOOKS AND/OR PAPER

Library schools, conservation organizations, and laboratories can provide an introduction to conservation or allow an opportunity for exchanges of information among conservation professionals through courses, workshops, and seminars. What

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4 The North Bennet Street School, An Education in Craftsmanship (Boston: North Bennet Street School, 1986) 2.

follows are examples of educational opportunities in book and paper conservation/preservation that are typical of the type of training provided through such events:

In 1985 the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) jointly sponsored a workshop on "Archival Conservation" with the Kansas State Historical Society and the National Archives-Kansas City. Topics at the workshop included "Introduction to Archival Conservation," "Integration of Conservation into Archival Processing," "Conservation Philosophy and Ethical Considerations," "Planning a Conservation Program," and a demonstration of basic conservation procedures. The AASLH continually works with state and local historical agencies to assist them in improving their public service and in preserving state and local history.

The Center for Book Arts in New York City offers classes in bookbinding among its various courses dealing with the "book arts." The Center has spring, summer, and fall sessions which include courses having relevance to book and paper conservation/preservation such as "Boxes and Portfolios: Storage for Books and More," "Care and Repair of Books: Introduction to Restoration," and "Gold Leaf Techniques."

The 1986 session of the annual, summer-long Rare Book School of Columbia University's School of Library Service included such courses as "Introduction to Rare Book Librarianship," "Preservation Programs for Special Collections," and "Medieval and Early Renaissance Bookbinding Structures." Any of these classes would supplement studies in book and paper conservation.

The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia offers educational programs for professional staffs in the form of "workshops and seminars designed to provide essential information and techniques for long-range preservation planning and stabilization of collections. With the knowledge gained through these programs, institutions can begin to assess their conservation needs and develop in-house preservation plans."5

The Guild of Book Workers in New York City lists among its purposes "...to draw attention to the need for sound book conservation and restoration..."6 Toward this goal, the Guild sponsors four or more programs each year in which subjects of historical interest may be presented in addition

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5 Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (Philadelphia: Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, n.d.) N. pag.

6 Guild of Book Workers' brochure (New York: Guild of Book Workers, n.d.) N. pag.

to field trips pertinent to book and paper conservation. Tours of binderies, paper manufacturers, conservation laboratories, and book collections of museums, libraries and rare book shops have all been Guild of Book Worker events in the past.

The Johns Hopkins University sells a videotape "concentrating on the demonstration of basic preservation techniques designed to address problems common to all libraries."7 Topics on the video include: structural reinforcement of paperbacks; pamphlet cases; minor repair of damaged books; basic paper cleaning and mending; encapsulation; and simple protective enclosures.

The Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, Massachusetts conducts workshops and seminars that focus on increasing the level of awareness for conservation issues and provides information on conservation management. These programs are geared specifically toward museums, historical societies, and library and archive professionals.

Colleges and Universities with programs in library/information science or library service may sponsor workshops or have courses in their curriculum relevant to studies

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7 The Johns Hopkins University, Preservation; Conservation; (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University, n.d.) N. pag.

in book and paper conservation. One example of such a course is offered by Simmons College in Boston. This class deals with issues relating to conservation administration and techniques for library materials. This and other schools could be consulted for specific information. An upcoming publication by the American Library Association's Resources and Technical Services Division entitled Preservation Education Directory by Susan Swartzburg would be helpful in locating these courses.

Workshops and seminars sponsored by museums are another possible source for education and training in the conservation and preservation of books and paper. For a community that has seen few or no educational opportunities in conservation, a workshop dealing with these issues might be suggested to a local or regional museum as a possible event in the future.

INTERNSHIPS AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TRAINING IN BOOK AND PAPER CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION

Internships in the conservation and preservation of books and paper often provide brief but intensive training in many of the techniques and procedures involved in conservation.

The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. offers an internship in its book conservation department. Applicants for this position do not necessarily need to be enrolled in a conservation program or be a staff member in a conservation-related setting.

The Center for Conservation and Technical Studies at Harvard University offers a ten-month advanced-level internship in conservation. Students can concentrate their studies in one of three areas of art conservation. Works of Art on Paper is the specialization that is most closely related to book and paper conservation. Students are allowed to audit, without charge, certain University courses and seminars relevant to the internship position. Upon successful completion of this training program, students are awarded a certificate by the Harvard University Art Museums' Center for Conservation and Technical Studies.

The Johns Hopkins University offers four-month internships for library and archives staff. Training consists of a three-month study of book structures and a one-month shift in the paper conservation laboratory.

Cornell University has set up a three-month internship for library and archive conservation staff. The technical training provided through this program is designed "to strengthen existing basic skills and knowledge by exposing interns to a range of preservation strategies and techniques..." Specifically the training program includes: hands-on work with library materials in the bindery, where the intern will investigate a variety of binding and container styles; time in the paper conservation department, focusing on basic principles of paper conservation; involvement with the administrative aspects of the preservation program, such as conservation/preservation surveys, commercial binding procedures, and minor repairs to books; and participation in the program developed for managing the problem of brittle books.

The Library of Congress accepts advanced students for an internship in rare book conservation. This internship is intended for "individuals with institutional representation."8

The Northeast Document Conservation Center operates a hand bookbindery and a paper conservation workshop. The Center accepts advanced interns from graduate programs in

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8 Thomas C. Albro, II, letter to author, 18 February 1987.

conservation who are planning careers involving paper conservation.

The University of Texas, Austin has organized an Institute of Fine Binding and Book Conservation within its Humanities Research Center. In 1987, two two-month summer training sessions will help binders or book conservators refine their skills in the areas of fine binding (1st session) and book conservation (2nd session). In the future, the Humanities Research Center intends to increase these training sessions to three per summer.

Other internships are available in paper conservation for advanced students of conservation. These internships are located at a number of conservation centers including: the Bureau of Historic Sites at Peebles Island, Waterford, New York; the Balboa Art Conservation Center in San Diego, California; the Upper Midwest Conservation Association in Minneapolis, Minnesota; the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia; the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawaii; and the Williamstown Regional Art Conservation Laboratory in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

The Newberry Library in Chicago currently does not have an internship opportunity in its Conservation Laboratory. However, the Library has had an internship program in

the past and, according to Bonnie Jo Cullison, Preservation Librarian at the Newberry, they hope to have one in the future.

Other opportunities also exist for internships in book and paper conservation. One possibility is in any large archival facility such as a state archive or a museum with a conservation division. Another possibility for an internship position is with a private book or paper conservator. The names and addresses of conservators are available through the American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works or in the Guild of Book Workers Directory.

ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH THE CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF BOOKS AND PAPER

A number of organizations are in existence many are interested in the conservation of books and paper and that are able to provide answers to specific questions concerning education and career opportunities in the conservation field. A listing number of these groups follows:

American Association for State and Local History
172 Second Ave. North
Suite 102
Nashville, TN 37201-1902
615-255-2971

American Association of Museums
1225 Eye St., NW
Washington, DC 20005
202-289-1818

American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008
202-364-1036

American Leather Chemists Association
University of Cincinnati, Loc. 14
Cincinnati, OH 45221
513-375-2707

American Library Association
50 E. Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611
312-944-6780

Center for Book Arts
626 Broadway, 5th floor
New York, NY 10012
212-460-9768

Guild of Book Workers
521 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10175
212-757-6454

Institute of Paper Conservation
Leigh Lodge
Leigh
Worcester WR65LB England
(An international organization)

Library Binding Institute
150 Allens Creek Road
Rochester, NY 14618
716-461-4380

Society of American Archivists
600 S. Federal Street
Suite 504
Chicago, IL 60605
312-922-0140

A number of national organizations listed here have regional chapters. Contact the national body to determine the location

of such regional divisions. In addition there are also independent local organizations that are concerned with the conservation and preservation of books and paper. Information about such groups can be found by contacting the conservation departments of libraries, conservation laboratories, or private practitioners.

PUBLICATIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF BOOK AND PAPER CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION

Journals, newsletters, and books are further sources of information concerning the conservation and preservation of library materials, books, and paper.

The Abbey Newsletter (320 East Center, Provo, UT 84601).

The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works Newsletter (3545 Williamsburg Lane, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008).

American Association for State and Local History. Rare Book and Paper Repair Techniques. Nashville: AASLH. Technical Leaflet #013.

Conservation Administration News. Tulsa: University of Tulsa (McFarlin Library, 600 S. College Avenue, Tulsa, Okla. 74604).

Leather Conservation News. Laramie [Wyoming]: University of Wyoming Libraries (Distributed by Materials Conservation Laboratory of Texas Memorial Museum, University of Texas).

Cunha, George M. and Dorothy G. Cunha. Library and Archives Conservation: 1980s and Beyond. 2 Vols. Metuchen [N.J.]: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1983. (Volume 2 is a 380+ page bibliography of conservation and preservation resources.)

The Guild of Book Workers Journal and Newsletter (521 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10175).

Library Conservation News (British Library, Preservation Service, Great Russell Street, London WC1S 3DG England).

Makepeace, Chris. Ephemera: A Book on its Collection, Conservation, and Use. Aldershot, Hants [England]: Gower, 1985.

Morrow, Carolyn Clark. Preservation Challenge. White Plains: Knowledge Industry Publications, 1983.

Morrow, Carolyn Clark and Carole Dyal. Conservation Treatment Procedures. Littleton [Colo.]: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1986.

Paper Conservation News (Institute of Paper Conservation, Leigh Lodge, Leigh, Worcester WR65LB England).

Young, Laura S. Bookbinding and Conservation by Hand: A Working Guide. New York: Bowker, 1981.

Young, Laura S. Bookbinding and Conservation by Hand: A Working Guide. New York: Bowker, 1981.

ADDRESSES FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS/ORGANIZATIONS MENTIONED IN THIS PAPER

American Association for State and Local History
see "ORGANIZATIONS"

University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
Graduate School of Library Service
P.O. Box 6242
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-6242
205-348-4610

Balboa Art Conservation Center
P.O. Box 3755
San Diego, CA 92103-0240
619-236-9702

Bishop Museum
P.O. Box 19000A
Honolulu, HI 96817-0916
808-847-3511

Bureau of Historic Sites
Peebles Island
Waterford, NY 12188
518-237-8643

Center for Book Arts
see "ORGANIZATIONS"

Columbia University, Conservation & Preservation Programs
School of Library Service
New York, NY 10027
212-280-5285/2282

Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts
264 S. 23rd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-545-0613

Cornell University Department of Conservation
701 John M. Olin Library
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853-5301

University of Delaware/Winterthur Museum
Art Conservation Program
303 Old College Road
Newark, DE 19716
303-451-2479

Folger Shakespeare Library
201 E. Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20003-1094
202-544-4600

Center for Conservation and Technical Studies
Harvard University Art Museums
32 Quincy Street
Cambridge, MA 02138-3883

Guild of Book Workers
see "ORGANIZATIONS"

Johns Hopkins University
Collections Maintenance Dept.
The Milton S. Eisenhower Library
Baltimore, MD 21218
301-338-8380

Library of Congress
Preservation Office
Washington, DC 20540
202-287-5000

Library of Congress
Conservation Office
Washington, DC 20540
202-287-5000

The Newberry Library
60 West Walton Street
Chicago, IL 60610
312-943-9090

North Bennet Street School
39 North Bennet Street
Boston, MA 02113
617-227-0155

Northeast Document Conservation Center
Abbot Hall
24 School Street
Andover, MA 01810
617-471-1010

Simmons College
School of Library Service
300 The Fenway
Boston, MA 02115
617-738-2225

The State University of New York at Buffalo
Art Conservation Program
Rockwell Hall
1300 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222

Upper Midwest Conservation Association
The Minneapolis Institute of Arts
2400 Third Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404
612-870-3120

University of Texas, Austin
Humanities Research Center
P.O. Drawer 7219
Austin, TX 78713-7219
512-471-9117

Williamstown Regional Art Conservation Laboratory
225 South Street
Williamstown, MA 01267
413-458-5741

CONCLUSION

In order for further strides to be made in stemming the tide of deteriorating books and paper, educational opportunities in the conservation and preservation of these materials, such as those that are described here, need to be embraced by more people who work with these items. In this way, current information on preservation techniques can, among other things, be incorporated into educational programs for patrons and non-professional staff. Those who are schooled in at least the rudiments of preservation science will be better able to monitor and report on the condition of library and archival holdings. Consequently, necessary adjustments can be made in the care or handing of the involved materials, possibly averting or at least reducing the need for actual conservation measures. As a possible long-term result of such preventative care, conservation professionals might be able to devote more time to developing and perfecting techniques for the preservation and conservation of books and paper. This is not to say that the need for conservation specialists would diminish, for their roles as catalysts in the dissemination of information would remain, as always, central to the success of preserving the written documentation of our heritage. If the importance of this mission should ever be questioned, let us recall the words of John Adams, second President of the United States: "The preservation of the means of

knowledge among the lowest ranks is of more importance to the public than all the property of all the rich men in the country."9

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9 John Adams, Dissertation on the Canon and the Feudal Law (London: n.p. [1782?]) N. pag.

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Guild of Book Workers' brochure. New York: Guild of Book Workers, n.d.

The Johns Hopkins University. Preservation; Conservation; Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University, n.d.

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